

Chevy Chase Village Public Safety Committee

Minutes of Meeting

November 7, 2011

The Public Safety Committee met on November 7, 2011 at 7:30 pm at the Village Hall. Committee members in attendance were Ollie Davidson, Kay Efron, Margot Anderson, John Talbott, Irwin Pernick, Betty O'Connor, and Saul Goodman. Also in attendance were Chief John Fitzgerald and Larry Heilman (Board Liaison).

The agenda for this meeting was to provide an opportunity for our new Police Chief to meet the Public Safety Committee and for the Committee to meet Chief Fitzgerald.

The meeting began with introductory remarks from Chief Fitzgerald, who had joined the Village Police Department in October. Based on his first few weeks on the job, the Chief noted that he had been very favorably impressed with the Village police officers and the Department's procedures. The Chief advised the Committee that he was currently working on a number of projects, including: (1) the acquisition of new police radios (as necessitated by changes in the Montgomery County police radio network); (2) the hiring of a police officer to fill a vacancy; (3) budgetary issues (including the Village's communications center and the Village's membership in CALEA); (4) a new SafeSpeed contract; (5) the Neighborhood Watch program; (6) street lighting in the Village; and (7) arranging for Montgomery County CAD to be available in the Village police cars.

The members of the Committee then each introduced themselves to Chief Fitzgerald and explained how they had each become interested in public safety issues in the Village.

At the request of Chief Fitzgerald, the Committee agreed that it would meet at least once every four months or so during the first year of the Chief's tenure.

One of the points made by several Committee members during the meeting was that Village residents themselves could be doing substantially more to improve the overall safety of the community at large. The Committee agreed that it would circulate a memo to the Village on this topic. Chief Fitzgerald kindly agreed to prepare a first draft. The end result of this efforts was the "Light It Up & Lock It Up!" memo circulated in the January *Crier*, a copy of which is attached.